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BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the Editor-in-Chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

The Law of Eminent Domain—A Treatise on the Principles Which Affect the Taking of Property for the Public Use, by Philip Nichols, formerly Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Boston, Author of *The Law of Land Damage in Massachusetts*, *The Power of Eminent Domain*, and *Taxation in Massachusetts*. In Two Volumes. Albany, New York. Matthew Bender & Company, Incorporated. 1917. Price \$15.00.

When, some eight years ago, Mr. Nichols published the modest volume which in this second edition has been enlarged to two, he seemed from his preface to be unaware of the valuable service which he was rendering to the profession, although this first edition was limited to a treatment of the Constitutional Limitations upon the Power of Eminent Domain. The work was so excellently done and met with such a flattering reception from the profession that Mr. Nichols felt it incumbent upon him to extend the scope of his work so as to cover all of the phases of the law of Eminent Domain. He has done his work well and thoroughly and we know of no modern work on the subject which seems to us to cover more completely the whole body of the law upon this most important subject. He has treated it from the broad standpoint of the general principles of the law, carefully clarifying the confusing and conflicting theories that have been grafted upon it from the different states. The notes to the volume are exhaustive and there are citations from every state in the Union, many of which have never been previously cited in any textbook upon the subject. We had occasion, within a day after receiving the volume, to examine it upon a question of some difficulty in a case which had arisen in the office and in a very few moments we were able from this valuable book to give a clear and unquestioned opinion on the subject. We do not hesitate to commend the book as one of the best, if not the very best, treatises on this important subject.

The Statute Law of Municipal Corporations in Massachusetts, with Historical Introduction Tracing the Development of the Law from Its Beginning, in Every Department of Municipal Government. By Frederick Hundley Magison, of the Essex Bar, and Thomas Tracy Bouvé. Albany, New York. Matthew Bender & Company, Incorporated. Price \$10.50.

When this volume was first handed to us we wondered what a Virginia lawyer could find which would be of any use to him in a book of this character, but an examination soon showed us that the value of the work was not entirely confined to the State of Massa-

chusetts. It is of peculiar interest to a Virginia lawyer because in many respects Virginia and Massachusetts have derived their law from a common source. From a historical standpoint it is equally valuable and interesting, giving amongst other things, the legislative history of prohibition in Massachusetts, and here *en passant*, we may say we are very much surprised to find that that old Commonwealth had a prohibition law in 1838, and had about twenty-five years of prohibition which never prohibited, notwithstanding the creation of extraordinary bodies of state constabulary, so that the state finally fell back upon the local option law. In our judgment, no lawyer who wishes to study the question of municipal law, no matter where he may be located, can afford to be without this volume, which is not only very interesting reading but extremely valuable, for purposes of comparison as well as authoritative law.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of March, 1917.

FLORENCE J. FISHBURNE,
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My commission expires October 22d, 1919.